



Alison Tyliszczak
Director, Maternal Infant Health Initiatives
E atyliszczak@marchofdimes.org
MARCHOFDIMES.ORG

Testimony regarding S.B. 991, An Act Concerning Medicaid Reimbursement for Community Health Workers

Human Services Committee

February 21st, 2023

Dear Senator Lesser, Representative Gilcrest, and esteemed members of the Human Services Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding S.B. 991, An Act Concerning Medicaid Reimbursement for Community Health Workers. My name is Alison Tyliszczak and I am a resident of Madison, Connecticut. I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the March of Dimes. The March of Dimes is committed to the health of all moms and babies and, in turn, equitable access to care for pregnant and postpartum women, children and families.

About 700 women die each year in the United States and two in three of these deaths are preventable¹. Additionally, Black women are 2 to 3 times as likely to die from a pregnancy-related cause and two times more likely to experience a preterm birth than their white counterparts².

Currently, Connecticut's Medicaid program does not reimburse Community Health Worker (CHW) services or incentivize health care providers to work with CHWs. The March of Dimes supports Medicaid reimbursement, at a livable wage, for CHWs.

CHWs are public health outreach professionals with an in-depth understanding of the experiences, languages, cultures, and socioeconomic needs of the community they serve. CHWs are trusted among the populations they serve because they have an in-depth understanding of a community's needs based on their own lived experience which, in turn, helps to reduce health disparities, improve health outcomes, and better the overall quality of care. CHWs are the perfect bridge between women and healthcare providers: They are equipped to advocate, educate, and encourage the habits that ultimately lead to successful pregnancy and delivery for our most vulnerable residents.

In closing, I urge the Committee to support S.B. 991, An Act Concerning Medicaid Reimbursement for Community Health Workers. Thank you for your time.

Alison Tyliszczak
Director, Maternal Infant Health Initiatives
March of Dimes